

Appl. No. : 10/646,333
Filed : August 22, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 174-335 are pending in this application. Claims 1-173 have been canceled. New Claims 174-335 have been added. Support for the new claims and amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed.

Support for independent Claim 174 is found in previously presented Claims 134 and 124; support for independent Claim 193 is found in previously presented Claims 147 and 244; support for independent Claim 218 is found in previously presented Claims 153, 142, and 124; support for independent Claim 241 is found in previously presented Claims 159 and 124; support for independent Claim 260 is found in previously presented Claims 160 and 124; support for independent Claim 279 is found in previously presented Claims 161 and 124; support for independent Claim 298 is found in previously presented Claim 169; support for independent Claim 317 is found in previously presented Claim 170.

Support for Claim 175 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0040] of the specification as filed; Support for Claims 176, 177, 200, 201, 223, 224, 242, 243, 261, 262, 280, 281, 299, 300, 318, and 319 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0134] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 178, 202, 225, 244, 263, 282, 301, and 320 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0133] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 179, 180, 203, 204, 226, 227, 245, 246, 264, 265, 283, 284, 302, 303, 321, and 322 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0195] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 181, 205, 228, 247, 266, 285, 304, and 323 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0151] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 182, 206, 229, 248, 267, 286, 305, and 324 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0186] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 183, 207, 230, 249, 268, 287, 306, and 325 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0123] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 184, 208, 231, 250, 269, 288, 307, and 326 is found, e.g., in paragraphs [0067], [0072], [0178], and [0189] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 185, 209, 232, 251, 270, 289, 308, and 327 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0178] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 186, 210, 233, 252, 271, 290, 309, and 328 is found, e.g., in paragraphs [0128] and [0129] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 187, 211, 234, 253, 272, 291, 310, and 329 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0129] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 188, 212, 235, 254, 273, 292, 311, and 330 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0156] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 190, 214, 237, 256, 275, 294, 313, and 332 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0157] of the

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specification as filed; support for Claims 191, 215, 238, 257, 276, 295, 314, and 333 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0177] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 216, 239, 258, 277, 296, 315, and 334 is found in paragraph [0180] of the specification as filed; support for Claims 189, 192, 194, 213, 217, 236, 240, 255, 259, 274, 278, 293, 297, 312, 316, 331, and 335 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0181] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 195 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0053] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 196 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0054] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 197 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0055] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 198 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0056] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 199 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0057] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 200 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0059] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 220 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0060] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 221 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0061] of the specification as filed; support for Claim 222 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0062] of the specification as filed.

Applicants reserve the ability to pursue claims as filed, canceled claims, or similar claims in one or more continuing patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to Claims 134, 135, 147-152, 153-157, and 159-161, and the allowance of Claims 169 and 170. New independent Claims 174, 193, 218, 241, 260, 279, 289, and 317 correspond to previously presented Claims 134, 174, 153, 159, 160, 161, 169, and 170.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 124-133, 136, 138, 142-146, 158, 162-168, and 171-173 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Colvin, Jr. et al. (US 6,330,464). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 124-133, 136, 138, 142-146, 158, 162-168, and 171-173 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 137 and 139-141 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Colvin, Jr. et al. (US 6,330,464). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the

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propriety of the rejection, Claims 137 and 139-141 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 134, 135, 147-152, 153-157 and 159-161 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, new Claims are presented based on Claims 147, 159, 160, and 161 redrafted into independent form to include all limitations of their base Claim 124. New claims are presented corresponding to Claims 148-152 that depend from their corresponding allowable claim. A new claim has been presented corresponding to Claim 134 redrafted into independent form to include all limitations of its base Claim 124 and intervening Claim 132. A new claim has been presented corresponding to Claim 135 that depends from its corresponding allowable claim. A new claim has been presented corresponding to Claim 153 redrafted into independent form to include all the limitations of its base Claim 124 and intervening Claim 142. New claims are presented corresponding to Claims 155-157 that depend from their corresponding allowable claim.

Conclusion

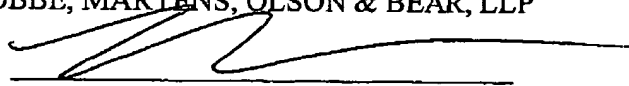
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

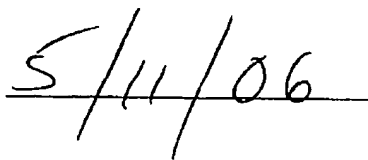
Respectfully submitted,

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